

# Study of Toponyms of the Bukhara Region

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**Abstract** – This article discusses the study of toponyms. In the conditions of Bukhara, documents are used, where the boundaries of the sites donated in favor of one or another institution are usually precisely indicated, or exempted from falls, and given the name of neighboring mergers and channels. Thanks to this, we can determine the location of many geographical objects mentioned in historical sources, bring old names closer to modern ones, and answer the question about the time of the disappearance of the first and the appearance of the second.

**Key words:** fortress of mangits, reserve, mountain paths, surroundings, jug, desert, monastery.

## I. Introduction

In the history of Bukhara, there are many names of places of pre-Muslim origin. For example, such names as Kushkimugon - "Fortress of magicians", Kuyimugon - "street of magicians" are associated with paganism-the religion of fire worshippers."There are many temples of fire worshippers in these parts," Narshakhi wrote.

"In the book of Narshakhi meet geographical terms juy - channel, kom-irrigation ditch, goruk-kuruk and etc. Interestingly, the word kuruk-"reserve, forbidden place", some authors considered Mongolian. As appears from the book of Narshakhi, this word was known in Central Asia even before the arrival of the Mongols in these regions. Therefore, an even deeper insight into the origin of this term is required.

Narshakhi, as the arab historian Istakhri, lists the main Bukhara irrigation ditches that received in part the names of the townships of territory: Karmana (of Karminia), Shopurkom, Kharkanot ul—ule (Upper Kharkana), Harkanrud, av—Khitfar, Baykonrud (Paykan), Farovizule (upper Faroviz), Faroviz is Sufla (Lower Faroviz), Daimun, Somjon, Kayfur (Gifer), Zar. N. F. Sitnyakovsky believed that many of these ariks (irrigation ditch) retained their names to this day.

Exceptionally valuable source for studying toponymy in the conditions of Bukhara is the document, which usually indicate exactly the boundaries of plots that are donated to a particular institution, or are exempt from taxes, and the names of neighboring villages and canals are given. Thanks to this, we get the opportunity to determine the location of many geographical objects mentioned in historical sources, to bring old names closer to modern ones and to answer the question about the time of the disappearance of the former and the appearance of the latter.

## II. Literature Review

An important source for the history of Bukhara is the document compiled in the XIII - early XIV century, which shed light on the socio-economic system of that time, and the main thing for us in the documents is that they indicate the historical topography of the Bukhara region.

O.D. Chekhovich, who worked for many years on the documents of the Bukhara Sheikh SeyfiddinBokharzi, who was born in the second half of the 12th century, claims that "many geographical names of the 14th century have been preserved in the vicinity of Bukhara to our time. On the maps of 1893 and in the" List of ariks (ditches) and settlements of the Bukhara part of the Zarafshan valley " by N. F. Sitnyakovsky, we find under the old names most of the villages and irrigation canals listed in our Charter. Thanks to this, it is possible to determine the location of almost all the "lands and villages of Bokharzi" converted to quite accurately.

Various published archival documents are important for studying the historical toponymy of Bukhara.Of particular value in this regard is the work of P.P. Ivanov "The Property of the Dzhuybar Sheikhs" (M - L., 1954), which covers the history of land ownership, feudal production relations in Central Asia in the XVI—XVII centuries, social terms were developed, and most importantly, a large number of geographical names were indicated: settlements, rivers and irrigation ditches, localities and tracts.

Bukhara has been studied by historians, orientalists, ethnographers, geographers, and linguists, but there are almost no purely toponymic studies however, numerous historical, linguistic, and geographical works provide abundant material for toponymic interpretations.

Many toponymic materials can be found in the works of Orientalists. For example, N.V. Khanykov tried to describe not just the impressions of the traveler, but to make the experience of a systematic description of the khanate, considering previous research, as well as based on interrogations of the local population. N.V. Khanykov devoted part of his work to characterizing the population of the Khanate, its ethnography, social structure, historical topography of Bukhara city, its monuments, and etc.

Military geographer L. F. Kostenko in 1870 led a mission to Bukhara, then participated in the Khiva campaign of 1873. He is the author of interesting works "the Journey of the Russian mission to Bukhara in 1870", "the City of Bukhara in 1870", and others. The expedition to the Bukhara khanate also took place in 1874. It was led by the editor of "Turkestan Vedomosti", the famous Turkestanologist N.A. Mayev. Among his publications are "Essays of the Bukhara khanate" (1875), containing information about Bukhara and other cities (history, archeology, Ethnography), description of the southern parts of the Bukhara Emirate, its mountain routes, essays of the mountain bekliks (kingdoms) of Bukhara, etc.

In the historical and historical-ethnographic literature on Bukhara, a special place is occupied by the publications of the Hungarian orientalist A. Vamberi. There are many inaccuracies in them, especially in the origin of geographical names. However, according to O.A. Sukharev, the data that Vamberi gives about the Bukhara city, its craft industry and trade, the population, madrassas, slavery, etc. very detailed and reliable.

In 1891, the work of military engineer I. T. Poslavsky "Bukhara" appeared. This work consisted of brief historical and topographical sketches (city, surroundings, kremlin, surroundings, water supply, sanitary sketch, population, general view of the outer city).

### III. Analysis

Among the Russian orientalists of the late XIX and early XX centuries, academician V. V. Barthold holds an outstanding place in the study of historical geography, and therefore toponymy of Uzbekistan, including Bukhara. We can safely say that without knowing the works of Barthold, you cannot deal with toponymy of Central Asia. Among the works of Barthold, it is difficult to find one that does not belong to historical geography and in which geographical names do not occur. V.V. Barthold offers etymologies wherever possible, although they do not always meet the modern requirements of etymological analysis of toponyms. For example, the name of the city of Bodia-I khurdak (Karmina), he explains, as kuzacha "jug". Here Barthold relies on the statement of Bukharan historian of the tenth century Narshakhi. The word bodiya in the Persian-Tajik language really means kuza "jug", however, as S. Karaev rightly notes, this word is also understood as a desert. The meaning of the word bodia as "desert" is toponymic, especially since this city is located in amidst of the Desert. The etymology of the toponym Buhoro as "monastery" proposed by V. V. Barthold is also called into question.

During the Soviet period, much attention was paid to the study of the antiquities of the Bukhara oasis. Among the historical and ethnographic works on Bukhara for toponymy, the works of M. A. Abduraimov, I. Magidovich, A. R. Mukhamedzhanov, O.A. Sukhareva, A. A. Semenov, V. A. Shishkin and others are of the greatest importance.

The works of these scientists are also valuable because they contain a large number of socio-historical, irrigation, geographical terms, as well as ethnonyms, which serve as a "key" to the disclosure of the meaning of toponyms.

The Zarafshan valley, in particular the Bukhara oasis, is very rich in irrigation terms, which indicates the development of irrigation agriculture in this area since ancient times. Below we will focus briefly on irrigation terms of the region.

In the irrigation terminology of the Zarafshan valley, the following are the most important terms. The main canal allotted from the river was called rud. For example: Shoxrud, Romitanrud, Kalkonrud. Terms rudbar, rudkhona also was used in the same sense, larger channels called terms kom (Komi Zar, Komi Akka, Kharomkom, Shopurkom, - "Neither in the Persian nor in Turkish (Turkic - S. N.) dictionaries the word kom is brought, as far as I know, only in Bukhara". Outflow channels derived from the main canal, was called zhuy or zhuybor. The word daryo (river), originally meaning sea, came to be used in the sense of "big river" or "big channel".

Afdok (in Khorezm-Badok) is an old Bukhara term denoting a type of irrigation canal. Historians who studied the Waqf documents concluded that in Bukhara, the term afdok was understood not as main channels, but as small branches, small channels. This term is noted in the composition of toponyms. For example: near Bukhara there was the village Afdok, Afdok-iBuga.

Zagorkash - a type of channel absorbing excess water, a drainage ditch, a collector, a spillway. Many scientists have written about this term.

In the vicinity of Bukhara, Kagan and Karakul, in other areas of the region, the toponym Zagorkash is often found. This term is noted in the forms Zakhkash / Zakash or Zabur.

Jon - Sogdian term for "lake", "pool"; hence the ancient name of the lake Karakul-Somjon "dark reservoir".

In the Middle Ages in Bukhara, the reservoir was called sikoya. This term comes from the Arabic Saka "irrigate" in Bukhara, in Khorezm, the term Saka was understood as the head of the canal. In Bukhara, the head of the canal was called dahana or sarirud, the upper channel portion Bolo obkhur, the lower part - Poyonobkhur.

#### IV. Discussion

The word jaikhun meant any large river, channel. For example, the canal and one of its three heads in the amlakdarKomod (Vobkent) was called jaikhun. An insignificant amount of water absorbed into the soil by the Bukhara people called sizob, and excess water entering the spillway - obpartav (Apartaw). There are well-known terms denoting methods of blocking the head of canals, ducts, and dams to raise the water level. In the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, on Zarafshan, as well as on the rivers of the Ferghana valley, fascines were used to block water, which in Khorezm are called navard, on Zarafshannavela (sometimes - Varg) or korabuyra and in Ferghana — uluk "corpse" to raise water to high places, chigir "chigiri" was used; this device in the Zarafshan valley is known as dulob, which occurs as a toponym; in Bukhara chigir was also called charkh ( in Egypt — sakiya).

In Bukhara, on Zarafshan, to maintain good condition of the head parts of the canal and to protect it from breakthroughs, in addition to navards in earthen dams, there were structures called kurband (sometimes - chavak) - from brushwood, turf; as well as from boulder and cobblestone. The banks of canals and ditches were fortified with turf and earth. This method was called Rosh. On small irrigation channels allotted from the main canals, a dam called dargat is built from the planks to draw water to the fields. This term has long become a toponym and is found in the form of Dargali (in Bukhara and Karakul regions). In the Zarafshan Valley, the dam was called the Sogdian term vark (varg), hence the varkband - the dam laying master or the person responsible for the serviceability of the arik's (ditch) head. The medieval toponyms Vargdekh "dam Village", Vargsar "dam head" (later-Rabotikhuja), Ras al-Varg "dam head" from the Arabic Ras " head" are derived from this Sogdian word vark. Currently, there is a village of Vark in the Navoi region.

The ancient toponymic formations of the studied region were Iranian, for the Iranian-speaking Sogdians were the most ancient cultural people in the territory of the present Bukhara region. Of course, this cannot be limited. According to the famous toponymist E.M. Murzaev, of the current geographical names Iranian - the oldest. He quite reasonably points out that there are two layers of Iranian toponyms - ancient (Sogdian, etc.) and modern (Tajik).

The main part of the current toponyms of the Bukhara oasis are made up of Turkic elements, but Iranian names also make up a large percentage, this distinguishes the toponymy of Bukhara from the toponymy of other parts of the republic, where the vast majority of geographical names are Turkic.

Thus, the toponyms of the Bukhara oasis, as well as of the whole of Uzbekistan, have been created for a long time and they bear the imprint of one or another historical stage of development of the people, their language. Such ancient place names mentioned in the Arab geographers and Narshakhi, as well as in Waqf documents as Amdiza, Arbijon, Arvon, Arkud, Ashtaman, Burk, Vagmitan, Varakhsha, Vardona, Gijduvan (Kakhustuvan), Kokishtuvon, Daymun, Karmina, Mastin, Mijduvon. Mugkon, Narshax, Paikend, Romitan, Romitanak, Romush, Saktari, Sumiton, Sugdavan, Kharomkom, Samdun, Tarob, Foroviz, Ferebr (Forob), Kharduvon, Khujaba, Sharg, etc. form an ancient stratigraphic toponymic column: the semantic meaning of such toponyms, in most cases, is lost. They can be grouped by topoformants.

Ancient names are toponyms ending in jon-zhan (zhen): Azvijon, Arbinjon, (Robinjon), Armijon, Yirjon, Kumarjon, Marzijon, Somjon and Sarmijon. S. Karaev believes that the distribution of toponyms with such a formant is limited to the border of the former historical region of Sogdiana and the territory of numerous Sogdian colonies; in addition, jan in Sogdian means "lake", "pond", "stream", "channel".

#### V. Conclusion

The ancient pre-Turkic names are the names of the settlements with the endings - Mitan: Armitan, Vomitan, 3armitan, Romitan, Romitanak, Semitan, Navmitan. According to V.L. Vyatkin, the word mitan means "fortress". Based on the statement of O.I. Smirnova and L.S. Tolstova: "The range of issues associated with the toponym and ethnonym Mitan, which is part of the lexical composition of the East-Iranian languages once widespread in Central Asia, deserves special consideration." She further cites the words of O.N. Smirnova "Component (mitan) ... as you know, dates back to

the ancient persian maerana "housing", "cloister" parthian, maehansogdiantyby (which in the New Persian mehan "homeland"). Based on written sources, it can be assumed that the appearance of this component in the toponymy of Central Asia dates back to Parthian time. It is especially widely witnessed in the toponymy of the Merv and Bukhara oasis and in Khorezm".

Thus, in addition to the toponym mitan, among the Uzbeks and Karakalpaks, the ethnonym mitan is widespread. It can be suggested that this term is of very ancient origin.

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